

means for applying power between a pair of electrodes is further provided, as suppressing means, on opposite sides of the outer portion in the heat storage tank so as to sandwich said outer portion.

7. (Amended) A heat storage device according to claims 3 or 4, wherein:  
as suppressing means, a property of increasing viscosity by the application of a magnetic force is provided for the heat storage material or the heat transfer medium in the outer portion in the heat storage tank; and

a magnet for exerting the magnetic force is further provided, as suppressing means, in the outer portion in the heat storage tank.

8. (Amended) A heat storage device according to claims 3 or 4, further comprising:  
a barrier, as suppressing means, for hindering the natural convection of the heat storage material or the heat transfer medium, said barrier being disposed in the outer portion in the heat storage tank.

9. (Amended) A heat storage device according to claims 3 or 4, further comprising:  
means for promoting a heat transfer, said means being disposed between the central portion and the outer portion in the heat storage tank.

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#### REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 4 and 6-9 are presently pending in this application, Claims 1, 2 and 5 having been canceled and Claims 6-9 having been amended by way of this Preliminary Amendment.